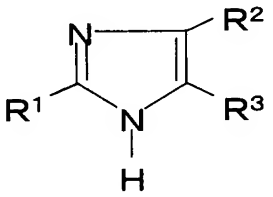
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An organic bistable element having a laminate structure comprising an organic thin film interposed between a first electrode and a second electrode, said organic thin film comprising an organic compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein, in R^1, R^2, and R^3,

one or two of them each independently represent an electron-donating group selected from the group consisting of -H, $-NH_2$, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, -X, $-CX_3$, -OH, $-OCH_3$, -OR and -R, wherein R represents a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms in which one or at least two methylene groups in the alkyl group are optionally substituted by a substituent of -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CHW-, wherein W represents -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -CN or $-CF_3$, -CH=CH-, or -C≡C-, provided that a plurality of said substituents are not adjacent to each other, and X represents -F, -Cl, -Br, or -I; and

the remaining group or groups of R^1, R^2, and R^3 each independently represent an electron-receiving group selected from the group consisting of -CN, $-NO_2$, -COR, -COOH, -COOR, and $-SO_3H$.

2. The organic bistable element according to claim 1, wherein said laminate structure further comprises a substrate and either the first electrode or the second electrode is stacked in contact with the top of the substrate.

3. An organic bistable memory device comprising the organic bistable element according to claim 1 or 2.

4. The organic bistable memory device according to claim

3, which further comprises a limiter for limiting, in writing information into the organic bistable element, current, which flows in either a positive bias side or a negative bias side, to a given value.

5. A method for driving the organic bistable element according to claim 1 or 2, said method comprising the step of limiting, in writing information into the organic bistable element, current, which flows in either a positive bias side or a negative bias side, to prevent a predetermined level or more of current from flowing in the organic bistable element.